71. (added) A method for facilitating consumer savings, comprising the computer-assisted steps of:

determining with a computer that a consumer-initiated transaction is a covered transaction pursuant to a savings agreement with the consumer under which specified funds will be directed on the consumer's behalf to a specified savings vehicle at a financial institution, covered transactions pursuant to the agreement being determined according to at least one of the time at which a transaction occurs and the transaction amount; and

automatically directing specified funds on the consumer's behalf to the specified savings vehicle at the financial institution pursuant to the agreement.

- 72. (added) The method of claim 71, comprising determining in a computer whether a credit card number appears in a data structure that identifies credit cards which are subject to savings agreements.
- 73. (added) The method of claim 71, comprising determining in a computer whether a smart card identifier appears in a data structure that identifies smart cards which are subject to savings agreements.
- 74. (added) The method of claim 71, comprising calculating in a computer a percentage of the consumer-initiated transaction.
- 75. (added) The method of claim 71, comprising calculating in a computer a service charge to be paid to at least one financial institution.

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\pm0prelim

Respectfully submitted.

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